

and garnering interest in law enforcement while serving and protecting the entire Mauldin community.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ROTCH,
LONGTIME PRINCIPAL AND
COACH AT T.R. MILLER HIGH
SCHOOL, BREWTON, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I join the people of Brewton and Escambia County, Alabama in mourning the loss of a beloved community leader whose life was suddenly taken during a tragic auto accident on August 11, 2010.

Donald Wayne Rotch, or "Coach Rotch," as he was affectionately known to his former players and students and many in Brewton, was an institution in Escambia County. Originally from Lake Charles, Louisiana, Coach Rotch came to Brewton in 1974 from Jackson, Alabama, joining the T.R. Miller High School coaching staff.

Coach Rotch was a fixture in Tiger athletics for the better part of 18 years as the football offensive line coach while also coaching the baseball team.

T.R. Miller is a sports powerhouse in South Alabama and Coach Rotch was a major force behind the Tiger's success. As a coach, he helped the team attain two championships in 1984 and 1991, before transitioning to the role of high school administrator in 1992. He served as assistant principal and then principal at T.R. Miller for the next 20 years.

As a school administrator, Donnie Rotch also witnessed the Tigers achieve football championships in 1994, 2000 and 2002. Just one month after his death, his beloved Tiger football program scored their 600th victory—a milestone not matched by any other Alabama high school football team.

Coach Rotch was tragically taken from his family and his students in August when his vehicle was struck by another during a police chase. Ironically, the person driving the vehicle which took Rotch's life was a former T.R. Miller student. The police officer who was pursuing the other vehicle once played baseball under Coach Rotch. In a very real sense in this wonderful, small South Alabama town, this accident was a tragedy in every imaginable way.

Coach Rotch was the friendly face who greeted T.R. Miller students each morning as they arrived at school and he was the steady hand that guided his school through many decades of excellence—urging everyone from students, teachers and parents to "do their best."

It has been reported that Coach Rotch was planning to retire from his leadership post at T.R. Miller in the coming year. His untimely passing has left T.R. Miller and all of Brewton with deep and profound sadness. There was no bigger believer in his students and no bigger role model to his school than Coach Donnie Rotch.

Madam Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of Coach Rotch and to the people of Brewton and Escambia County who were all influenced by his remarkable pres-

ence. Our prayers especially go out to his wonderful wife, Jane; his daughter, Jayme; his son, Richard; his mother, Jean Rotch Bonneau; his three brothers, Greg, Ray and David; two sisters, Kathy and Connie, and other family. You are all in our prayers.

CONGRATULATING GREGORY
APPLEGATE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gregory Applegate on his retirement from his position as city administrator of Sonora, California, where he has served since 1990. His work and service has made a permanent mark on the community and he will be missed.

Greg has been married to his wife, Deborah, for 31 years, and they have 2 children, Caleb and Cassie. Prior to his service as city administrator in Sonora, Greg worked for the city of Dos Palos and the city of Merced in his successful career in public administration. Greg was involved in many local and federal associations such as the Tuolumne County Economic Development Board, the Historic Downtown Chamber of Commerce, the League of California Cities, the California Redevelopment Association, and the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management, where he was past president.

Aside from industry and municipal organizations, Greg spends much of his time and energy serving the community through school initiatives, measures to improve children's health, Rotary Club, and mentoring youth at his church. Greg was involved in the Tuolumne County Healthy Children's Project as well as served on the Summerville High School Bond Committee.

You don't have to walk far through the streets of Sonora to see for yourself the hard work and tireless effort that Greg has put into the city. He has played a pivotal role in the following projects: the Sonora Opera Hall, creating the Sonora Redevelopment Agency, the Rother's Corner Fire Museum, the new fire station, the renovations of City Hall, the Mono Way Pedestrian Facility, the Sonora Crossroads Project, among countless other valuable projects.

Greg has been awarded a number of accolades throughout his time as a city administrator. These include the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Government Award, which he received in both 1991 and 2006, the Tuolumne County "Top Hand" award in 2002, and was named President of the city managers section of the League of California Cities, Central Division. He was also President of the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority from 2004–2006.

After a long and full career of helping communities by developing and managing cities in the Central Valley, Greg is leaving the world of city administration, but his legacy will forever stay with the city of Sonora through the continuation and development of projects he has worked on and implemented through his 30-plus years of service. I rise today to thank Greg Applegate for his hard work and congratulate him on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCGOVERN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John McGovern, a Vietnam War Army Ranger and Studies and Observations Group veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. John McGovern was recognized on Tuesday, August 31. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: JOHN MCGOVERN

(By Greg Eckstrom)

John McGovern worries about sounding like he's bragging when he talks about his time in the military.

After all, with a resume of experiences like McGovern's, it's hard to share them without this concern crossing your head.

The man once briefed John Wayne. He's been part of the handful of graduates from some of the most difficult military training in the country. He's seen shrapnel come within inches of hitting him, walked through an ambush by himself and cheated death more than half a dozen times.

And so he recalls these experiences in a quiet, modest voice. He's proud of his time in the military, but quickly dismisses any comments that even tread on being complimentary with a quick statement.

"I've been lucky," he said. "That's all."

Coming from a large military family, McGovern was born in Oceanside, Calif., and raised in several states around the country—Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Alaska—as his father was in the military.

The decision to join the military was made by the young McGovern when he was 16 years old.

"I was ready to get out on my own," he said. "I told [my father] I wanted to join, and he told me he'd sign for me. I took all my tests and everything and when I had my 17th birthday, they flew me out for Fort Carson, Colo."

McGovern originally wanted to enter the infantry, but was given the offer to become an Army Ranger and jumped on the chance.

Once in Florida, McGovern ran into two sergeants—Pierre and Lehw—who took him under their wing.

"I ran patrols with him for six months at night, and then doing my job in the daytime. Finally they said I was ready," he said. "So I put in for Ranger school, passed it, and then they kept me as an instructor. Oh, it was rough. That's actually probably one of the roughest schools other than Special Forces."

Ranger school started with 275, graduated 70, and only 57 had enough points to receive the tab.

After passing Ranger school, the three went to Scuba school, then Airborne school, then Special Forces school.

Around 50 people were enrolled in Special Forces school. After its completion, only McGovern, Lehw and one other person remained.

"I've been lucky," he said. "I would pick out the worst man, and I'd say, 'I'm going to be here longer than him.' And if he failed out, then I picked the next one. The main thing with all these hard schools . . . if you set your mind that you're going to pass it,